

Summary



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1. Dynamism and objectives at the 7th National Focal Points Meeting of the CP/RAC

The new 2010-2011 Work Programme, as well as the CP/RAC Mandate was approved at the last session of the Biannual Meeting of the NFP. The meeting was attended by 37 participants from 18 countries.

On the 17th, 18th and 19th of July, in Dubrovnik (Croatia), the 7th National Focal Points Meeting of the CP/RAC was held. The meeting was attended by nearly all the staff members of the CP/RAC, as well as representatives from 18 out of 21 countries of the Mediterranean Region. The meeting was opened at 3 p.m., on Wednesday, the 17th of June, with a general review of the Centre's activities during 2008 and the first half of 2009, presented by the CP/RAC Director, Virginia Alzina, and by the representatives of Slovenia, Croatia, Spain, Syria, Malta, Turkey, Egypt and Greece. After that, Enrique de Villamore, of the CP/RAC,

introduced the participants to points of special interest, such as the role of the NFP opened in Almeria.

On Thursday, the 18th of June, the participants discussed vital questions on the agenda, such as the Centre's new Mandate, the draft of the decisions on Sound Chemical Management and Sustainable Consumption and Production and, finally, the structure of the CP/RAC Work Programme for 2010-2011. All these topics were widely discussed by the participants, who contributed their valuable suggestions and priorities, which were included in the memoranda of the meeting. On Friday the modified documents were presented to the delegates.

The new Mandate of the CP/RAC, together with the 2010-11 Work Programme, was approved on the 19th of June.

The three days of the meeting were characterised by the active participation of all the representatives, who found themselves in a positive, friendly and cooperative environment at all times.

The New Mandate and the Work Programme

The main objectives of the 7th National Focal Points Meeting of the CP/RAC were the elaboration and approval of the Mandate and the Centre's Work Programme, which were satisfactorily fulfilled.

The project of the Centre's new Mandate is set out as follows: "To promote mechanisms leading to sustainable patterns of consumption and production, as well as to rational management of chemical substances in the Mediterranean Region." Developing this idea, the Mandate includes as key items the promotion of know-how, technical assistance, impetus towards green competitiveness, the gradual introduction of the criteria of sustainability, the promotion of sustainable life-styles, and the approach of MAP to the objectives in SCP fixed by the UNEP.

The Mandate also indicates some of the activities which should be carried out by the Centre, and which are later

developed in the 2010-11 Work Programme, also approved during the 7th CP/RAC National Focal Points Meeting.

The work of the Centre during 2010- 2011 will be structured according to 3 objectives:

- To identify, act and educate on the priorities and areas of production and consumption which have the most serious impact on the Mediterranean environment, and which imply a major risk to health and environment, owing to chemical pollution.
- To make the Mediterranean market more sustainable and to clean it of chemical products.
- To create connections and synergies.

All the programmed activities embrace one of these objectives, dealing with the concepts of Sustainable Consumption and Production and Sound Chemical Management in an integrated manner. This redefines the CP/RAC organization, which, although it has been harnessing both concepts for a long time, it is only during the last year that the cooperation between the two has begun to interrelate. ■



2. The CP/RAC gets the status of Regional Convention of Stockholm Centre in the COP IV

The confirmation of the status of the CP/RAC represents an historical event as it is the first centre situated in the developed country to receive its status at the International Conference.

The Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production (CP/RAC) received the status of "Regional Centre under the Stockholm Convention" at the Conference of Signatory Parties

(COP IV), celebrated in Geneva from 4th to 8th of May. The Centre will retain its new status for the next four years, during which time it will give technical support to eliminate

Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) to all the countries that request it. During this period, the Secretary will evaluate the functioning of the Centre, and will confirm its continuity in COP VI.

The Fourth Conference of the Countries of the Stockholm Convention was

attended by some 800 participants coming from more than 149 delegations from all over the world. On Tuesday, 5th of May, the Conference discussed the problems of technical support and financial resources, the complexity of which urged the Conference to create a special discussion group, called the Contact group. After the group's long negotiations, the Centre's status was finally ratified by the COP at an extraordinary session on the morning of Saturday, the 9th of May.

The Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention gave the CP/RAC the opportunity to present their work through a stand on which the most recent publications and most relevant studies have been exposed. Special emphasis was given to the Centre's experience in BEPs (Best Environmental Practices) and BAT

(Best Available Techniques), highlighting actions carried out in this area in the Mediterranean countries. The specialization of the RAC/CP in BEPs and BATs may be vital for its distinction among the Regional Centres for the Convention.



The Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production (CP/RAC) has been working for 14 years in 21 countries of the Mediterranean Region as a part of the Barcelona Convention, promoting responsible production and consumption and the rational management of chemical substances. Since February of 2007, it has been an officially Nominated Centre for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention and has contributed numerous efforts in order to help countries in its implementation. ■

3. First workshop on the Stockholm Convention organized by CP/RAC

In its status of Nominated Stockholm Convention Centre, the CP/RAC organized a workshop about the implementation of the Convention in the Mediterranean Region. More than 50 people actively participated in the event, which had a high technical content.

On the 7th and 8th of April, the “Regional Workshop on successful experiences in the implementation of the Stockholm Convention and its synergies with Basel and Rotterdam” was held in Barcelona. The CP/RAC organized this event with the desire to actively participate in the implementation of the Stockholm Convention, in view of the confirmation in 2008 of its status as Nominated Centre for the Convention. The objectives of the seminar were as follows:

- To connect the different developed and developing countries with the international institutions related with the implementation of the Stockholm, Basel and Rotterdam Conventions.
- To exchange the experiences of different countries and institutions in the implementation of the three conventions.

- To inform and to investigate on the financing available for the implementation of the three conventions.
- To propose future actions and help to improve the implementation of the three conventions.

The event, which lasted two days, was attended by representatives from the different Mediterranean countries which had signed the Stockholm, Basel and Rotterdam



Conventions, such as Morocco, Egypt, Tunisia, Syria, Israel, Montenegro, Algeria, Lebanon, Albania, Croatia, Cyprus, Turkey, Bosnia, Serbia and Spain. The Secretariats of the Stockholm, Basel, and Rotterdam Conventions, UNITAR and Global Environmental Facilities (GEF), also participated in the event. And finally, investigation centres such as RECETOX, CSIC or the CIEMAT, also took part in the event, playing an active role.

Among other items, the CP/RAC presented the “Study on the implementation and synergies among Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and the SAICM (Strategic Approach to International Chemical Management) within the Barcelona Convention signatories”, which showed disparities in the results from different countries of the Mediterranean Region. This study, based on the information provided by each one of the countries, will be updated when new information is available.

The conclusions of the workshop focused on the request for more active implementation on the part of the countries



and on the importance of the awareness of non-deliberate generation of POPs. Difficulties in obtaining financial support for the implementation of the Convention were emphasized and the simultaneous implantation of the three conventions—for the sake of greater efficiency—was recommended. Monitoring was also emphasized as being of the utmost importance, with the recommendation of the implementation of the Global Monitoring Plan. Finally, the importance of cooperation with other programmes dedicated to chemical substances, like SAICM or REACH, was remarked on. ■

4. GRECO Initiative



4.1. Presentation of GRECO INITIATIVE in Egypt and first GRECO AWARD to green competitiveness

GRECO INITIATIVE was introduced on 28th May during the Global Forum on Green Industry organized by UNIDO, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, in collaboration with the CP/RAC, Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production, the Egyptian National Cleaner Production Centre and the Ministry of Trade and Industry of Egypt. The presentation was done by Dr. Virginia Alzina, director of the CP/RAC in Spain, by the Spanish Ambassador, by Dr. Azza Morssy, from UNIDO Environment & Cleaner Production Unit and by Mrs. Luisa García Valdecasas, the manager of GRECO INITIATIVE. GRECO INITIATIVE was one of the key participants in the Forum.



GRECO INITIATIVE presents the first GRECO AWARD to SILA EDIBLE OIL

In the Global Forum on Green Industry framework, GRECO INITIATIVE delivered the first GRECO AWARD to Sila Edible Oil, an Egyptian oil



company, during the Global Forum on Green Industry. Prof. Anton Pizzuto, chairman of the scientific committee & Mrs. Luisa García Valdecasas, GRECO Manager, were the responsables to present SILA EDIBLE OIL with the award. The winner had been selected among 100 companies after a screening process, and having obtained the best results on reducing the environmental impact of its industrial process at a minimum cost and maximum savings. Other finalists companies are First Textile (Turkey), Masa Décor (Spain), Herbos (Croatia), Zica Sarajevo (Bosnia & Hercegovina), Batteries Nour (Tunisia), Hotel Caravan Serail (Tunisia), Baxter (Malta), Water & Sewage Utility (Bosnia & Hercegovina) and Croatian Electric Utility Company (Croatia).

Every successful case of cleaner production is part of the “Med



Cleans” published by the CP/RAC, Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production.

SILA EDIBLE OIL

Sila Edible Oil is a soap and oil sector company which has used cleaner production processes obtaining from them not only environmental benefits but economic profitability. Sila Edible Oil has put into practice different measures of “green competitiveness” achieving high benefits and reducing

maintenance costs that have supposed around 445.000 € savings/per year with only an investment of 21.450 €. The pay back period has been in a 75% of the cases around a month. Maintenance costs were reduced by 10%, water consumption was reduced by 46%, wastewater treatment requirements were reduced by 66%, and boiler fuel consumption was reduced by 48%. With these measures the company achieved discharge compliance. ■

4.2. Presentation of the Partnership Agreement of GRECO Initiative in Morocco

The GRECO Initiative project was held at the Tulip Hotel in Casablanca in april 2009. This event hosted the participation of Mrs. Luisa García Valdecasas, GRECO INITIATIVE manager (Cleaner Production Regional Activity Centre, CP/RAC), Mr. Bousselham Hilia, general secretary of the Ministry of Trade, Industry and New Technologies, Mr. Mohamed Benyahia, director of Partnership, Communication & Cooperation, and Assistant Secretary of Sate for Environment of the Ministry of Energy, Mining, Water & Environment, Mr. Saïd Mouline, president of the Moroccan Employer’s Association (Confédération Générale des Entreprises du Maroc - CGEM) Environment Commission, Mrs. Hana Hanzaz, director of the Moroccan



Cleaner Production Centre, and Mr. Juan Antonio de Castro, international

expert of the Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production (CP/RAC).

Partnership Agreement

This event has been the occasion to introduce the Understanding Protocol between the Ministry of Trade, Industry and New Technologies, the Secretary of State in Charge of Water & Environment, the Moroccan Employer’s Association and the Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production (CP/RAC), that was signed on April 15th, during the “GRECO INITIATIVE FORUM IN Morocco”. The methods to put it into practice will be the purpose of an agreement signature between the Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production (CP/RAC) and the Moroccan Cleaner Production Centre

(CMPP). This agreement was signed on April 15th within the “GRECO FORUM in Morocco”. The Collaboration is supported by the Moroccan Ministry of Energy, Mines, Water and Environment.

Report on successful cases of Green Competitiveness application

On the other hand, Luisa García Valdecasas introduced the GRECO INITIATIVE project (*Green Competitiveness*), a Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production (CP/RAC) relevant project, which is part of the Mediterranean Action Plan promoted by the United Nations Environment Programme. The aim of this initiative is to foster green

competitiveness, increase profitability by taking environmental protection measures in the Mediterranean region, through analysis and by spreading the economic benefit of applying such a concept for companies.

100 cases of Green Competitiveness

García Valdecasas has analysed the need of green competitiveness through the “*Green Competitiveness in the Mediterranean - Finding business opportunities through Cleaner Production*” Report, which analyses 100 cases of Green Competitiveness of many companies in the Mediterranean region, that have

put cleaner production solutions into practice.

The application of cleaner production techniques —changes in production and organisation processes to reduce environmental impact— leads to savings of 14M euros a year for the total of these companies, while the accumulated net profit, after 5 years, would be around 57M euros within these small and medium sized companies. Throughout the first year, for every 100 euros invested on the total of these analysed cases, they would have an additional profit of 100 Euros, and this amount would be multiplied by 5 after five years. ■

5. The “Study on the implementation and synergies among Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and the SAICM within the Barcelona Convention signatories” is available

The “Study on the implementation and synergies among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and the SAICM within the Barcelona Convention signatories” was published at the end of March of 2009, and was presented at the Regional Seminar for the Implementation of the Stockholm Convention, celebrated on the 7th and 8th of April in Barcelona. The study was based on information provided by the countries which answered an exhaustive survey about the implementation of the three Conventions in each one of them, as well as about the necessities detected in the field of chemical substances. Other data provided for the Study included the National Implementation Plan (NIPs), the reports of the Stockholm,



Rotterdam and Basel Conventions, the UNITAR Agency and the Africa Stockpile Programme.

The study analyzes the situation of the three Conventions and SAICM in each one of the countries and the difficulties encountered in the implementation of the NIPs. Also, it analyzes the measures taken in each country about the Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) and the reduction of the non-deliberate POPs and makes an inventory of the dioxins and furans, among other data.

The study was published in English, and its French version is expected soon. At this moment, it can be found on the web page of the centre: www.cprac.org. ■

6. The GRECO Initiative, object of an agreement for cooperation between the CP/RAC and the CNTPP

Both centres express their commitment to work together during the next 5 years for the promotion of Algerian companies within the framework of the GRECO Initiative for green competitiveness.

The National Algerian Technological Centre for Cleaner Production (CNTPP, the French abbreviation) and the Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production (CP/RAC) signed an agreement of cooperation on the 8th of May, 2009. This agreement, signed for a period of 5 years, focuses on the development of the GRECO Initiative in Algeria. Thus, it is envisaged by the agreement to jointly organize the Forum of launching the Greco Initiative in Algeria, to promote the Initiative among Algerian companies, placing all the instruments developed by the

GRECO at their disposal. They will also be eligible for the Biannual GRECO Award, be able to publish their cases in the annual report, and to receive technical support from CP/RAC.

This agreement was signed by Virginia Alzina, in her capacity as Director of the CP/RAC, and Fazia Dahlab, in her capacity as CNTPP Director.

The National Algerian Technological Centre for Cleaner Production (CNTPP) is under the auspices of the Ministry



for Territorial Development of the Environment and Tourism (MATET). It is part of the international network of Official centres for the Stockholm Convention against Persistent Organic Pollutants, of the UN Environmental Programme (UNEP). The main aim of the CNTPP consists in providing technical support to Algerian companies in the adoption of “cleaner” technologies, and management systems which would allow for simultaneous improvement in economic efficiency—in terms of productivity and competitiveness—and also lead to an improvement in the environment. ■

